FBIS-SAS-87-096
Tuesday
19 May 1987
Vol VIII No 096

Daily Report

SOUTH ASIA

SPECIAL CONSUMER NOTICE
PRINTED INSIDE COVER

FBIS FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

NOTICE

On 1 June 1987 FBIS will begin publication of reorganized and renamed DAILY REPORTS. The following list details the changes being made in the eight volumes.

I.	CHINA DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged
II.	EASTERN EUROPE DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged
III.	SOVIET UNION DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged
IV.	EAST ASIA DAILY REPORT	Renamed; formerly ASIA & PACIFIC DAILY REPORT; contents unchanged
V.	NEAR EAST & SOUTH ASIA DAILY REPORT	Renamed; formerly MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA DAILY REPORT; contents include: Middle East & South Asia Review Inter-Arab Affairs Islamic Affairs Palestinian Affairs OPEC Affairs South Asian Regional Affairs Arab Africa Algeria Chad Egypt Libya Mauritania Morocco Sudan Tunisia Western Sahara Arabian Peninsula Bahrain Kuwait Oman PDRY Qatar Saudi Arabia United Arab Emirates Yemen Arab Republic Iraq Israel Jordan Lebanon Syria South Asia Afghanistan Bangladesh India Iran Maldives Nepal & Bhutan Pakistan Sri Lanka
VI.	LATIN AMERICA DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged

(continued on back of report)

FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

19 MAY 1987

Gulf War

Iraqi President Saddam Husayn admitted that Iraqi warplanes were responsible for the "tragic incident which afflicted the U.S. frigate *Stark*" and expressed his "deep sorrow," in a message addressed to U.S. President Ronald Reagan and carried by INA. Terming the attack "unintentional," Saddam Husayn hoped that "cordial" U.S.-Iraqi relations would not be affected. The incident "reaffirms the need to join efforts to end this war," the Iraqi president declared, noting his country's "keen interest" in U.S. efforts in the UN Security Council. The Iraqi president also asked President Reagan to convey his "deepest sympathy and condolences to the families of the victims."

Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati told a meeting of foreign diplomats that the U.S. presence in the Gulf is the "biggest factor" contributing to increased tension in the area, Tehran radio reported. "By launching this so-called inadvertent attack" on the U.S. frigate, Iraq is encouraging the superpowers to build up their presence in the region thereby heightening the tension and possibly involving other countries in the conflict, Velayati charged. A Tehran radio commentary speculated that Iraq was responsible for the mine explosion that damaged the Soviet tanker *Marshal Chuykov* in an effort to secure more aid for its "crumbling regime." The commentary also accused the supporters of the Iraqi Government of waging an "indirect battle against Islam." Moscow World Service commentator Aleksandr Pogodin called attention to the "complexity and explosive character" of the situation in the Gulf and urged an end to "outside interference," especially the increased U.S. military presence. Stressing the importance of safeguarding the region's sea lanes, Pogodin reiterated the USSR's "great hopes" for a peaceful resolution of the issue.

In more recent action, Iraq troops suffered "scores" of casualties when Iranian naval units attacked the Al-Umayah oil platform 18 May, IRNA reported. According to a Lloyds report cited by INA, an Iranian ship attacked a Liberian tanker en route to Kuwait. An Iraqi communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio announced that 18 Iranian boats were destroyed when Iraqi seamen repelled an attack on Al-'Amiq port.

In diplomatic activity, UAE President Shaykh Zayid Ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan received the Iraqi interior minister who delivered a message from President Saddam Husayn, INA reported.

Lebanon

Israeli Raid — Israeli warplanes attacked PLO positions near Sidon that were being used for "terrorist training," Jerusalem radio reported. The raid left one dead and one injured in Al-Miyah wa Miyah, according to the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio.

Political Consultations — In remarks cited by Beirut radio, Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, chief of Syrian military intelligence in Lebanon, noted that the "presidential team" is reviewing power-sharing options under discussion at the Lebanese-Syrian talks in Damascus. Kan'an, who started a series of meetings with West Beirut officials with a visit to Prime Minister Rashid Karami, also commented on the security situation. He disclosed that as a result of investigations, a "disaffected" man named Abu Sa'id was arrested for ordering various incidents in West Beirut. "He is one of the Abus who has widely abused this country," Kan'an declared, adding that the detainee had set up a criminal network for his own personal benefit after having been "stripped of his political post." The general described the 17 May assassination of Communist Party official Hasan Hamdan as a "painful shock" and reiterated the Syrian policy to show no mercy to those who violate the city's security.

Palestinian Affairs

PFLP officials in Damascus said the statement issued by the PLO Executive Committee at the end of its 17 May session in Tunis violates the recent PNC resolutions by calling for better relations with Egypt, Radio Monte Carlo reported. The statement, broadcast by Baghdad Voice of PLO radio, reiterated the PLO's emphasis on Arab solidarity and good relations with Syria, Egypt, and Libya. In a related development, the Fatah-Revolutionary Council accused PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat of trying to sow discord among the Palestinian factions, thereby paving the way for his participation in an international conference on the Middle East, Radio Monte Carlo reported.

Israel

In remarks broadcast by Jerusalem radio, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres told reporters that after his talks in the United States, it is even clearer that the U.S. Administration firmly opposes any international conference on the Middle East having "coercive authority." While Peres "welcomed" U.S efforts to bring about a conference, he reiterated that the so-called Reagan Plan is "unacceptable." Peres had previously told the station that his 90-minute meeting with the Soviet ambassador to the United States was held "in an excellent atmosphere," adding that he asked the USSR to "detail" its position on an international conference.

PDRY-USSR

Cooperation talks between delegations led by Defense Minister Salih 'Ubayd Ahmad and his Soviet counterpart Sergey Sokolov began in Moscow 16 May, Aden radio reported.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

South Asia

Vol VIII No 096 *19 May 1987*

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

AFGHANISTAN

Keshtmand Answers Questions Raised by Party ..... C 1

BANGLADESH

Ershad To Make 'Goodwill' Visit To PRC In July *[AFP]* ..... D 1
Foreign Minister Departs for Angola, Italy ..... D 1
Tribal Refugees Return From Indian Camps ..... D 1

INDIA

Further on Effects of Presidential Rule in Punjab ..... E 1
Governor on Security Steps ..... E 1
Police Chief Gets Extra Job ..... E 1
Curfew in Northern City Following Violence ..... E 1
Government Demands Release of Fiji's Officials ..... E 1

PAKISTAN

Charsadda Bar Association Office, Court Bombed ..... F 1
DAWN Urges Negotiations in PRC Border Dispute *[12 May]* ..... F 1

IRAN

Further Reaction to Iraqi Attack on U.S. Frigate ..... I 1
U.S. 'Not Ready' for War ..... I 1
Iraq's Motives Examined ..... I 1
Iraq 'Hitting Anything in Sight' ..... I 1
Velayati Cited on Iraqi Attack ..... I 2
Navy Commander Briefs Musavi on Gulf Developments ..... I 2
Cabinet Meets, Discusses Iraq, Constitution ..... I 2
Communique, Reports Detail Recent Fighting ..... I 2
Communique No 2840 ..... I 2
Naval Attack on Platform Cited ..... I 3
IRGC Reports Kurdish Actions in Northern Iraq ..... I 3
Al-'Alawi Leads Visiting Omani Delegation ..... I 3
Makes Arrival Statement ..... I 3
Seeks 'Constructive' Relations ..... I 4
Meets With Musavi ..... I 4
Discusses Oil Cooperation ..... I 4
Talks With Hashemi-Rafsanjani ..... I 5
Holds Talks With Khamene'i ..... I 5
Holds Second Round With Velayati ..... I 6
Deputy Foreign Minister Departs for Japan, PRC ..... I 6

Keshtmand Answers Questions Raised by Party
LD170001 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 13 May 87

[Address by Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers, during which he answers questions raised at party meetings held throughout the country during 21 March thru 20 April 1987; date and place not given — live or recorded]

[Excerpts] Comrades, friends, viewers and esteemed listeners, in the past month meetings have been held in the primary party organizations of our party, where the first steps for national reconciliation, measures for the (?organization) of this process and the ways for the subsequent consolidation of the PDPA ranks were considered and discussed. [passage omitted]

At these sessions many issues were raised about the country's socioeconomic development, raising the level of our people's living standards, and improving the activities of government organs for fulfilling the policy of national reconciliation. The PDPA Central Committee Politburo has commissioned me to reply to a series of questions raised at meetings in the past month by party members. Allow me to begin by replies to the questions raised:

Most of the questions were (?relevant) to draft laws and the compilation of laws in connection with socioeconomic issues. This task is at the center of the government's attention, because these laws are linked with the interests of circles and broad strata of the country. Designing and drafting the new legislative documents require much work and time, as well as the need to obtain expert views, and the views of social strata, various social circles, and the country's subjects.

Question: Why has the labor law not yet been approved?

Answer: [passage omitted] The draft labor law has now been passed to the DRA Revolutionary Council for final consideration.

Question: Proposals have been made concerning the budgetary policy of the government; comrades suggest in particular that the government budget should be spent not only in Kabul and the surrounding regions, but also in remote provinces and districts. Moreover, further sums of money should be allocated for the construction and renovation of mosques and schools.

Answer: Our present budgetary policy is in accordance with the state of war. Meeting defense needs exerts a heavy burden on the expenditure section of the government budget. The undeclared war swallows half of the budget expenditure, and thus requires huge sums that could be used for people's social welfare.

In addition to this we are obliged to [word indistinct] to centralize the allocations and to make serious economies in budget expenditure.

Of course, those comrades who criticise this part of our budget are right to a certain extent. However, once again I point out that the present distribution of the state budget stems from military considerations. Under such conditions in fact we do try to design and draft plans for the development of the various provinces.

I want to inform you that for the first time, a section for local planning is included in the government plan for 1987. In most cases, its implementation depends on the activities of the local organs. Thus, at the moment the local organs have in their hands many possibilities for economically and effectively utilizing the allocated local sums. [passage omitted]

During the 13 years before the revolution, only 2,618 apartments in Kabul had been built while during the post-revolutionary years 5,817 apartments and residential houses were built and allocated by the government. Now more than 1,000 apartments are being built every year. Within another year, considering the increased capacity of the Kabul house construction combine, more than 1,500 residential apartments will be built annually through this channel alone. Of course, this figure is still many times less than demand.

Also, instances of the unlawful distribution of dwellings is unbearable. This is correct, most of the party members said at the sessions. Comrades rightly raised questions about why there were violations concerning the distribution of government apartments in Kabul City. Why do some people who won private houses also receive government apartments? Why are house plots being distributed by connections and acquaintances? First of all, the disabled and the families of the martyrs of the path of revolution, are pained by such a situation.

Our people know very well today that the government cannot increase many times the construction of dwellings and therefore eliminate all these questions; however, party members cannot reconcile the facts about the unlawful distribution.

Esteemed viewers and listeners, allow me to inform you about the measures taken by the party and government to solve this issue (?essential) to life. [passage omitted]

We must earnestly admit that we have not yet regulated a necessary order for the distribution of apartments and building plots. We do not have specifically approved regulations or other legislative rules. A regulation on registration, status, and distribution of government residential apartments and land plots in Kabul City has been prepared. The government will soon consider this regulation and approve it.

In this important document, the means of determining each person's right to receive a dwelling will, for the first time, include norms. The deserving persons will be registered and counted, and will be selected to receive apartments and building plots. The toilers collectives and work places of the individuals will have direct control to ensure just distribution. [passage omitted]

Of course, we cannot condone the fact that some families having private houses use government apartments while there is a serious shortage of dwellings. We have and will resolutely struggle against this negative phenomenon. [passage omitted]

Question: In reflecting the people's spirit, party members attached great value to the distribution of free aid; but mean-

while, they criticized violations concerning its storage, transportation, and distribution.

At the news conference that was held on 9 May, I spoke in detail about this issue. Meanwhile, I would like to point out that the grant-in-aid supply of foodstuffs and other basic commodities, both for the sale and use of its proceeds for strengthening the government budget, as well as its free distribution to the country's inhabitants, play an important role in raising the people's living standard.

The Soviet Union has a special role in the donation of free assistance. In the past year, foodstuffs and basic commodities with a total value of 1 billion afghanis has been imported from the Soviet Union and distributed free of charge.

This year, more foodstuffs of the free aid from the Soviet Union — including wheat, flour, cooking oil, sugar, and basic commodities such as kerosene, soap, matches, footwear, clothing, and household supplies — will be distributed.

In order to control the distribution of the free aid, a special commission of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and the DRA Council of Ministers, led by Comrade Nazar Mohammad, candidate member of the Politburo and first vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, was formed. Relevant commissions were also formed in the provinces.

In the distribution of goods, however, there are still shortcomings. The speakers referred to them at the party sessions. For example, the free aid for Kajaki District of Helmand Province was twice reduced, but was sold in the free market.

If this report is accurate, then it is one of the most ugly violations in the distribution of the free aid. Instruction was given to the relevant organs to investigate such examples, and question seriously the culprits.

A number of comrades suggested that the free aid under the control of the party, be distributed by the chiefs of the nationalities and tribes. What can I say in this respect? You know that in each particular case, a specific decision is being made by the relevant localities. You know that the transportation and distribution of this aid is carried out by the units and companies of the army and sarandoy, as well as by the local organs.

It was suggested that the during the distribution of the basic commodities and foodstuffs sent to us from the friendly country, it is required that the [words indistinct] Afghan-Soviet must be broadly popularized. This is a good suggestion. The party and government organs will intensify the explanatory work.

At the party session, bribery, embezzlement, abuse of government position for personal objectives, immoral behavior by some employees [words indistinct] were mentioned as well as the attitude [word indistinct] and other phenomenon by the [word indistinct] and other organs of the government.

Generally, such criticism is justifiable. First of all it manifests the inclination of party [word indistinct] to have a just, worthy, and combatant party.

Our second assessment is that if a party openly speaks about such phenomena, then that party is strong. The third assessment is that the work of party control and state bodies and legal establishments to combat these phenomena has been carried out weakly thus far. We, I mean the Council of Ministers or ministries, are bound to prevent such phenomena.

Now on the issue of state administration: the new system of state administration was formed as a result of the victory of the April Revolution and is evolving. It is understood that there are shortcomings in this connection too. Some of them will take time to remove. For instance, administrative cadres need time in order to restructure their old, inherited way of thinking.

The party organizations of the ministries and state offices play a valuable role in instilling the new and contemporary style of administration. Presently unity of word and deed and a good approach to criticism by responsible people are the standards of party principles. The stronger the party and state [word indistinct] of an administration, the more the toiling people are involved in administrative affairs, the less of a bureaucratic and formulative approach will there be. Presently there are unbearable shortcomings that can be eliminated: I mean the indifferent approach toward visitors. We all should learn from Comrade Najib and members of the Politburo, who receive the workers every day. The ministers and heads of departments should learn this too. We should uproot actively and with energy the old style of administration and approach toward visitors. Such demands have been made on us by the party members.

There were questions: Why is the issue of localities being resolved slowly at the ministries? Why is the combat against the bureaucratic approach very weak at the ministries and state offices? Why are visitors in some state establishments being approached so badly?

As I read such questions, I was convinced that party members discuss with interest all the things that worry our people. The [word indistinct] assistance to those who return has been one of the issues that worries everyone.

According to national reconciliation policy, we invite the emigres to return to the homeland. We create the necessary conditions for their participation in the political, social, and cultural life of Afghanistan. We guarantee their equal rights with other DRA citizens. We help in resolving the issue of housing of those who return to cities and [word indistinct]. We will create new work places in industry, construction, agriculture, and social services. We will urge the emigres to use the system of social [word indistinct] such as free education — including facilities to study abroad — assistance in health and social services.

After the declaration of national reconciliation policy, approximately 50,000 compatriots returned to the homeland. A number of measures have been taken for their acceptance by the state as follows:

[word indistinct] border, peace towns have been formed. Assistance such as money, foodstuffs, and basic goods are being distributed to those who return. Assistance and help are being

given to transport them to their permanent place and to find employment for them.

Most of the issues concerning responsibility for the returnees, from a legislative aspect, have been resolved. A special department has been created within the framework of the Council of Ministers. Receiving the refugees is a difficult and a task full of responsibility, and has presented the government with many socioeconomic problems. There are still specific defects in this plan. We should have [words indistinct] as refugees are an issue of authority for the party, government, and all the people of Afghanistan.

The Council of Ministers has and will take effective measures to accept our compatriots returning to the homeland.

Question: If some of houses in the villages have been destroyed, where the returnees can live?

Answer: Work begins among the returnees from the time they step in the country. They are received by relatives and all-round assistance is being given to them. As far the issue of dwellings is concerned, most village inhabitants have taken the initiative, through voluntary work, to assist returnee families in rebuilding their houses. The local organs of state power and administration also assist the returnees, first of all, by providing them with cement, timber, and essential building materials at reduced prices as well as by putting at their disposal transportation facilities for their transfer to the villages.

Question: Will residential dwellings and work in the production enterprises be provided for the returnees?

Answer: Yes, a special DRA Revolutionary Council decree was issued in this regard.

Question: What kind of aid will be given to returnees who lived abroad without a home or job?

Answer: The returnees will benefit from all the gains of the April Revolution including the right to work according to their profession and level of education.

A series of other questions can come under the title: Measures for providing the families of the martyrs of the path of the revolution. The party and government pay attention to these families and all those who suffered pain and losses because of the undeclared war. Pension and allocation of apartments in accordance with (?availability) are only part of their privileges.

In general, today 75,000 people receive pensions, pension for each person, on the average, reaches 35,000 afghanis annually. The government this year has allocated 2.5 billion afghanis for this purpose; the disabled and the families of the revolutionary path now receive this aid.

In general the government annually pays 1.5 billion afghanis for subsidizing goods through the coupons.

At present, the government is taking measures for the future in order to better provide for the families of the martyrs of the revolutionary path and [word indistinct] of the undeclared war. Meanwhile, those comrades who insist on the solution of this important sociopolitical issue, are entitled to do so. [passage omitted]

Our economic policy was mostly intended to removing the negative consequences of the undeclared war in order to accelerate the growth of the [word indistinct] pillars. Not only did we manage to accelerate this, but succeeded in [words indistinct] in comparison to prerevolutionary times.

In 1986 the extra growth of national income, in comparison to the 1985, was 4 percent. We also made headway in all fields of industrial output from the level of 1979 [as heard]

During the postrevolutionary years, measures were taken to enhance the living standard of the people. Salaries of the government employees, workers, and teachers were increased. [passage omitted]

It is envisaged in the fundamental guidelines for the socioeconomic development of the country for 1986-1989, that in the future, the wages for the various categories of workers and employees of the government, will be increased in stages and the system for distributing basic goods through coupons will be broadened. The machinery for providing for workers and employees in the institutions and government organizations has been noticeably improved.

The subsequent growth of commerce for providing the inhabitants with basic materials has also been envisaged. The scales of retail goods exchange to the government sectors, mixed, cooperative, and private sectors in 1987 will increase 6 percent in comparison to 1986.

Of course the difficulty in providing inhabitants with foodstuffs [word indistinct] has (?not been removed). The reason for this is difficulties stemming from the undeclared war. [passage indistinct]

Questions can be raised about why increases in government sector wages, from the viewpoint of speed, are exceeded by increases in prices. Can we not increase wages in proportion to price increases? [sentence indistinct]

If we do not regulate salaries in proportion to the (?general) growth of work, prices will go up even faster. In any event, we do all we can to prevent (?price rises). A proposal was made to give greater salaries to the employees of the country's border districts. [4-minute passage indistinct]

Ershad To Make 'Goodwill' Visit To PRC In July

BK141609 Hong Kong AFP in English 1603 GMT 14 May 87

[Text] Dhaka, May 14 (AFP) — Bangladesh President Hussain Mohammad Ershad will visit China in July in a trip aimed at further improving already-good ties between Dhaka and Beijing, reliable sources said here Thursday.

Mr Ershad would make the trip, his sixth to China since coming to power in Bangladesh five years ago, some time in July but dates had yet to be set, the sources said.

The trip will follow a five-day visit to Dhaka by Chinese Vice Premier Qiao Shi beginning June 1 that officials have described as a "goodwill and familiarisation tour" to discuss bilateral, regional and international issues.

Observers said frequent political, professional and cultural visits had marked the fast-growing relations between Bangladesh and China.

But the relationship has not always been good. During the 1971 Pakistani civil war, China sided with West Pakistan against Soviet and Indian-backed East Pakistan, which in the course of the war gained independence as Bangladesh.

Bangladesh later drew away from New Delhi and Moscow. Beijing and Dhaka established full diplomatic relations in January 1976 and China began providing Dhaka with political and material support.

Since then Bangladesh has become heavily-dependent on China for the supply of arms and equipment, as well as the training of personel.

China is the single largest arms and equipment supplier of Bangladesh's 92,000-strong armed forces, although there is no formal defence pact between the two.

Foreign Minister Departs for Angola, Italy

BK160942 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 16 May 87

[Text] Foreign Minister Humayun Rashid Chowdhury has left Dhaka for the Angolan capital Luanda to attend the extraordinary plenary meeting of the UN Council on Namibia. The meeting which will begin on Monday [18 May] commemorates the 20th year of the establishment of the council. The Bangladesh foreign minister will address the opening session as the president of the 43d session of the UN General Assembly. On his way back, he will pay an official visit to Italy and will hold talks with the Italian foreign minister on bilateral and international issues. He will also call on Pope John Paul II at the Holy See and will address the heads of the UN agencies based in Rome.

Tribal Refugees Return From Indian Camps

BK140719 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 14 May 87

[Text] A large number of Bangladeshi tribals have escaped from the camps across the border in Tripura and returned to their homes in the Chittagong hill tracts. The foreign minister said this in Dhaka yesterday after his recent visit to the hill tracts.

Mr Humayun Rashid Chowdhury said in recent weeks about 2,000 tribals had escaped from the camps under compelling circumstances. The government is ready to welcome all genuine Bangladesh nationals. Bangladesh is committed to receive all its nationals who may have crossed over to India having fallen victims to coercion, oppression, and misleading propaganda of the so-called Shanti Bahini [Peace Forces].

During his day-long visit to Rangamati, Khagrachari, and Ramgarh last Monday, Mr Chowdhury met prominent tribal leaders and (?refugees). The tribal leaders and the (?refugee) families assured the foreign minister to guard against all subversive activities of the so-called Shanti Bahini in the hill tracts. [sentence as heard]. The (?local) tribals narrated to him harrowing tales of woe, bereavement, and intimidation.

They also informed the foreign minister of the compelling situation in which they had to make their way back home from across the border. Some tribal women even sought the help of foreign minister in tracing the whereabouts of their husbands and near relations who were taken away from their homes under the threat of violence by the so-called Shanti Bahini. The local tribal leaders also assured him of the full cooperation in trying to bring the people back from the camps. They expressed satisfaction that no exodus of tribals has taken place in the last few months.

Mr Humayun Rashid Chowdhury expressed the need for ending the subversive activities of the so-called Shanti Bahini. They are indulging in antistate activities which no government will tolerate. The foreign minister said government efforts will continue to expedite the early repatriation of tribals.

Further on Effects of Presidential Rule in Punjab

Governor on Security Steps

BK181316 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 18 May 87

[Text] The Punjab governor, Mr Siddhartha Shankar Ray, has announced that all boys arrested after the imposition of president's rule could be released after a scrutiny of their cases. He said they could be released if their parents or the concerned village sarpanch [headman] gave an undertaking of their good conduct. Addressing a news conference in Chandigarh today, he also announced that police check-points or nakas will be removed except those on bridges and outside the cities. Instead, there will be surprise checks in which every vehicle will be searched at unannounced places. Mr Ray made it clear that the security will be adequate. It will be endeavor of the government to enforce it vigorously but without harassing or being rude or discriminatory, he said.

Meanwhile, six terrorists were arrested in Bagha Purana and Badhni Kalan areas of Faridkot District. The district superintendent of police told our Moga correspondent that some arms and ammunition were recovered from them.

Police Chief Gets Extra Job

BK181618 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 May 87

[Text] The Punjab Government has appointed the state police chief, Mr J.F. Ribeiro, as secretary to the government for internal security with immediate effect. According to an official spokesman, Mr Ribeiro will now be dealing directly with matters concerning the establishment and the discipline of the police force as well as the law and order in the state.

A member of the United Akali Dal Presidium, Mr Gurdev Singh Badal, was today arrested in Faridkot. The arrest was made on charges of sedition. Six terrorists were arrested in Bagha Purana and Badhni Kalan areas of Faridkot District. The district superintendent of police has said that some arms and ammunition were recovered from them.

Curfew in Northern City Following Violence

BK190857 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 19 May 87

[Text] An indefinite curfew was imposed in some parts of Meerut city of Uttar Pradesh this morning. An official spokesman said in Lucknow that the curfew was imposed following some incidents of arson and violence last night in which one person was killed and five injured. The areas where curfew has been clamped are Kotwali, (Lhesari Gate), and Civil Lines police circle. The spokesman said the police pickets have been posted in all the sensitive parts, and a constant vigil is being kept on the situation. About 80 persons have been rounded up by the police. All educational institutions in the city have been closed for a week.

Government Demands Release of Fiji's Officials

BK181604 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 May 87

[Text] India has called for the immediate release of the elected representatives held under detention in Fiji. In a statement issued in New Delhi today, an official spokesman said that the Government of India earnestly hopes that the legitimate government will be enabled to resume functioning soon. It also hopes that the significant provisions of the October 1970 Constitution will not be altered. These were arrived at after painstaking negotiations between the political parties representing the Fijians and Indians in Fiji and the British Government.

Expressing concern at the reports, the spokesman expressed the hope that racial harmony in Fiji will not be endangered by recent events and every effort will be made to preserve it. Meanwhile, the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, again spoke to the Commonwealth secretary general, Mr Ramphal, and contacted India's high commissioner in London on the situation in Fiji. The Government of India is also in close touch with the New Zealand Government.

Charsadda Bar Association Office, Court Bombed

BK181538 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 18 May 87

[Text] A bomb exploded at the bar room of Charsadda court this morning, damaging the bar room, its furniture and windowpanes, and nearby courts. The NWFP chief minister, Arbab Mohammad Jahangir Kha, has ordered officials to assess the damage caused by the explosion. Meanwhile, at the request of a provincial assembly member retired Major Mukhtar Ahmad, the chief minister has announced the gift of 1 lakh rupees as immediate relief to the Charsadda Bar Association. Later, the chief minister convened a high-level meeting to discuss the situation created by the bomb explosion. He instructed the law enforcement agencies to further tighten security arrangements to protect the life, property and honor of the people.

DAWN Urges Negotiations in PRC Border Dispute

BK171124 Karachi DAWN in English 12 May 87 p 7

[Editorial: "Border Tensions in the Himalayas"]

[Text] The tension which has been building up between India and China on their eastern frontiers since last month is nowhere near being defused. Now Western diplomats in Beijing have even hinted at the possibility of a border war between the two countries. This prognosis may be a little far-fetched in view of the fact that both India and China have offered to negotiate their differences. But until the eighth round of border talks begins some time after June and the tension is eased, Sino-Indian relations are likely to remain seriously strained. As it is, the border in the sensitive eastern sector near the trijunction of China, India and Bhutan is disputed and, in spite of the inhospitable terrain, the two sides have deployed their forces there. What is more, of late, they have been trading charges and counter-charges that the other side is massing troops in the area. While China alleges that India has conducted a large-scale military exercise on the eastern border, violated China's airspace and nibbled at its territory, New Delhi insists that China is building up its forces in Tibet to 'teach India a lesson.'

The crisis on the Sino-Indian border is not to be dismissed lightly as one of those verbal skirmishes in which neighbouring states sometimes indulge. India and China have fought a war on their borders in 1962 and boundary differences have continued to strain their relations ever since. With China accusing India of occupying 90,000 square kilometres of its territory and New Delhi demanding from Beijing nearly 24,000 square kilometres of what it claims to be India's. Amity and understanding between the two are virtually ruled out for the present. The dispute is a thorny one and has defied a settlement so far. New Delhi insists that its border with China has been settled by treaty, tradition, custom and usage and its legal validity cannot be questioned any longer. But Beijing views the McMahon line as well as the boundary in the other sectors as an imperialist legacy imposed upon China by the British during their colonial rule in the subcontinent. The history and the delineation and authenticity of the boundary lie at the heart of the dispute, which has been compounded by the new controversy over the Line of Actual Control the two sides agreed to respect following the 1962 war. But how the unsettled condition of the border can spark off a crisis was underlined last year when India accused China of violating its territory by sending troops into Sumdorong valley and building a helipad there. As India prepared to dislodge the Chinese the incident created quite a furor in the Parliament in New Delhi and wrecked the seventh round of the border talks. But later tension abated when India called off its planned military operation following the discovery by its army survey team that the area was on the Chinese side of the Line of Actual Control. In December new strains developed when India departed from the tacit agreement not to change the status quo on the borders and passed a law converting Arunachal Pradesh from a centrally-administered territory into a state of the Union. Part of Arunachal Pradesh constitutes disputed territory.

The present Sino-Indian tension has far-reaching implications also in the context of regional politics. While it could provide a setback to the normalisation process between the two countries — the date of the eighth round of talks has still to be fixed — the border crisis may cast a long shadow on South Asia's troubled international equations. The intensifying war in Afghanistan and the tensions it has generated, the unstable nature of Indo-Pakistan relations, the changing pattern of China's ties with Washington and Moscow and the uncertainties of India's equation with the US have rendered international relations in South Asia quite fluid. Although Sino-Indian ties were far from cordial, they had, since 1981 when the present dialogue was initiated, acquired a measure of stability so vital to the peace and security of the region. It would be in the interest of all States in the region if New Delhi and Beijing were to negotiate their differences on their borders and the Line of Actual Control rather than allow these to intensify and gather the fissionable potentialities of an armed conflict which neither side seeks.

Further Reaction to Iraqi Attack on U.S. Frigate

U.S. 'Not Ready' for War

LD181113 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 18 May 87

[Excerpts] Last night, a U.S. battleship was attacked by two warplanes of the Iraqi regime, following which Washington announced: Iraq has accidentally attacked the U.S. guided missile frigate *Stark*. [passage omitted]

The attack by Iraqi planes on the U.S. frigate *Stark* — the value of which Reuter quotes as $200 million — which is equipped with two attack helicopters, and surface-to-air and surface-to-surface missiles, took place less than 5 days after the meeting between Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state for foreign affairs, and Saddam Husayn and other Iraqi officials.

Murphy announced in Baghdad: The United States and Iraq have a coordinated stand regarding the maintenance of security and the establishment of peace and tranquility in the Persian Gulf. [passage omitted]

According to a Central News Unit report, the stationing of the U.S. battleship within a few hundred miles of the northern coast of the Persian Gulf, near Bahrain, raises the possibility that the Iraqi regime has deliberately attacked the frigate with the intention of creating unrest in the region. However, for various reasons, one being that they are not ready to embark on a war in the Persian Gulf, U.S. officials are not prepared to accept what Saddam and the Ba'th Party thought America favored.

Iraq's Motives Examined

LD181141 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 18 May 87

[Text] Following the attack by Iraq against a U.S. warship, a spokesman for the War Information Headquarters gave an interview to IRNA saying: The regional governments and the superpowers must bear in mind that the trap set for them by the Iraqi Ba'thist regime is extremely serious and dangerous; that it will continue to bring more and more shame upon them every day. Who can tell, it could actually culminate in a conflict between them.

They must ponder the Iraqi regime's main objective in making such efforts; they must ponder why the Iraqi regime chose a U.S. warship as a target, or why it releases its floating mines in Persian Gulf waters against Russian ships. Whatever Iraq's intention, the result would be to further entrap those who interfere in the quagmire created following their support for the declining Iraqi regime.

The spokesman then added: The Islamic Republic of Iran, as it has reiterated so often, will not remain indifferent to interferences by foreigners in the Persian Gulf, which belongs to its littoral states, as it will not remain idle against the Iraqi regime's provocations and the tensions it creates. Having said that, the Islamic Republic warns those who intend to interfere in the region and who entertain the idea of escalating tension that this is only the beginning; that interference in the Persian Gulf will lead to graver consequences, for divine hands have not become truly involved in the war.

Once again, we call on those who interfere in the affairs of the Persian Gulf that if they truly wish to see an end to this war and security of navigation in the Persian Gulf they must, first of all, prevent the Iraqi regime from attacking ships, or at least leave it on its own so that the two Iraqi and Iranian nations may punish that aggressive regime.

Iraq 'Hitting Anything in Sight'

LD181555 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1111 GMT 18 May 87

[Station political commentary]

[Excerpts] Yesterday, a Russian oil tanker, registered as *Marshal Chuykov*, collided with a mine, and following an explosion was rendered inoperative. A gaping hole was found in its hull. Furthermore, last night a U.S. combat frigate was hit by two Exocet missiles and exploded, setting alight its crew, and ammunition. According to British radio the U.S. Administration has officially protested to Iraq. Radio London has stated that seemingly Iraq targetted the U.S. frigate by mistake. Therefore, it must be said that perhaps the mine that blasted the Russian vessel had been mistakenly deployed at sea.

Clearly the United States, the USSR, the UK, and France have all tried their best to strengthen and equip the Iraqi regime, including the superpowers, by supplying Iraq with equipment, data, and almost unlimited financial aid. Undoubtedly, without the reliance on assistance by the superpowers, Saddam's regime would never have the courage to launch attacks against the Islamic revolution. For 8 years Saddam has relied on continued aid by the superpowers in his war against Islam and Iranian Muslims. On many occasions, the Saddamist regime has been undertaking many adventurous acts to perhaps find a way out of the corner it finds itself trapped in.

At the threshold of a domestic uprising in Iraq, the Saddamist regime is trying to foment a crisis in the Persian Gulf and thus export its domestic problems outside its borders. While the prospering cities of northern Iraq are continuously being bombed by some bombers delivered to the Saddamist regime, and while the Kurdish people of Iraq rush so desperately to the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Iraqi regime follows the same policies in the Persian Gulf as those adopted by the Mojahedin-e Khalq at the last moments of their shameful political life in Iranian cities. The Mojahedin-e Khalq adopted a policy that can be boiled down to one sentence: Kill anybody in sight and declare your existance following every killing of whomsoever you can find, so that perhaps you may find a way out of the dangerous quagmire rising from treachery against the masses of people. In one sentence, the policy of Saddam in the Persian Gulf is that of hitting anything in sight, be it an Asian oil tanker or a U.S. frigate, be it of friend or foe. [passage omitted]

As a Persian saying goes, he has had the salt and breaks the salt-cellar. Iraq collects money from the United States, missiles

from France, and hits a U.S. frigate, hoping that by increasing the crisis in the Persian Gulf it may be able to entangle the United States in assisting its dying regime. Very probably, it blasts a Russian vessel using a Russian mine in order to receive more from the USSR. Iraq hopes against hope that Saddam's supporters become so stupid in assisting Saddam that they will continue aid to the crumbling regime during their indirect battle against Islam, the Koran and Muslim humanity. Or they hope that by setting fire to the Persian Gulf they can make it so that Saddam would not be the only loser in the imposed war, but would make Saddam's principal allies share the damage.

What are we to do under such circumstances? We are talking to all nations and governments. Are we to take pity on this creature, allowing a sensitive and strategic region to become an arena for this regime's animal instincts, an animal that is attacking everyone like a rabid wolf, including its revolutionary neighbor Iran, its much suffered nation in northern and southern parts of Iran, and its generous supporters in order to prolong its shameful life by 2 days? Standing before humanity, we clearly and proudly announce today that any kind of help to Saddam's regime is treason against mankind and world peace. Any kind of surgery to remove this cancerous tumor will be considered a positive step toward defending human rights, peace and freedom. The Iranian nation will once again demonstrate its loyalty to humanity, human rights and real peace by chanting: War, war, until victory on Jerusalem Day.

Velayati Cited on Iraqi Attack

LD181928 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 May 87

[Text] At a meeting of foreign ambassadors and charges d'affaires resident in Iran this afternoon, Foreign Minister Velayati explained the latest developments related to the deployment of chemical weapons by the Iraqi Zionist regime against the Islamic Republic of Iran. Referring to the report of the UN specialist mission on the Iraqi use of chemical weapons, Velayati pointed out: This report did not separate the issue of the use of chemical weapons from other issues of the imposed war, nor did it give it the attention and coverage that it deserves; and this lack of separate investigation is perhaps one of the most significant factors which shows why repeated condemnation of Iraq by the Security Council during the past 3 years has not had the slightest practical effect. Each time Iraq has become bolder in more extensive use of the chemical weapons.

Referring to the point that the Islamic Republic of Iran, while reserving the right to retaliate, has decided to maintain its principled stands by paying a heavy price and has refused to use chemical weapons, Velayati said: We announce clearly that our patience in maintaining these stands is limited.

During the meeting, the foreign affairs minister called upon all countries to concentrate their utmost efforts, individually and at international level, to achieve the objective of permanently banning the use of chemical weapons in the world.

Continuing his remarks, our country's foreign affairs minister referred to the recent Iraqi attack on a U.S. ship in the Persian Gulf and said: This is an important, noteworthy development. Velayati continued: The presence of the U.S. fleet in the Persian Gulf waters is the single most important factor for the increased tension; and on the other hand, Iraq, by launching this so-called inadvertent attack, is pursuing its objective of inviting the superpowers to show a greater presence in the Persian Gulf, to build the tension, and to involve other countries in the war.

Navy Commander Briefs Musavi on Gulf Developments

LD181436 Tehran IRNA in English 1430 GMT 18 May 87

[Text] Tehran, May 18, IRNA — Navy Commander, Commodore Mohammad Hoseyn Malekzadegan conferred with Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi here today.

In the meeting the commander briefed Musavi on latest Persian Gulf developments as well as combat readiness of the naval forces.

Cabinet Meets, Discusses Iraq, Constitution

NC181107 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 18 May 87

[Text] The cabinet met under the chairmanship of President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i yesterday afternoon and discussed domestic and foreign developments in detail. The cabinet also studied reports on the uprising of the Muslim people in northern Iraq, especially in the cities of Sirwan, Khurmal, Sayyid Sadiq, and Halabjah, as well as the flight to the Islamic Republic of Iran of a group of these cities' residents who could no longer tolerate the Zionist Iraqi regime's oppressions; The cabinet members confirmed the government's support for the Iraqi people.

Following this, they discussed implementation of the Constitution. In connection with the importance of observing the Constitution's laws and on the role that it plays in systematizing the country's current affairs, President Khamene'i said: The Islamic Republic's Constitution, which can justly be described as a unique body of laws, and which is very close to our Islamic ideals and revered by our people, plays an effective role in the people's destiny, welfare, and life. In addition, it should become the example for behavior for the executive and other powers. The president added: It is our religious, legal, and revolutionary duty to implement and observe the Constitution.

At the end of yesterday afternoon's cabinet meeting, it was agreed that special meetings would be organized to study this important issue so that, after the necessary organization, the necessary steps to better implement the Constitution could be taken.

Communique, Reports Detail Recent Fighting

Communique No 2840

LD181727 Tehran IRNA in English 1657 GMT 18 May 87

[Text] Tehran, May 18, IRNA — Iran's navy intercepted and searched 25 commercial ships, tankers and warships during

patrol missions in the Hormuz Strait Sunday but allowed them to set sail since no Iraq-bound cargo were found on board.

Announcing the above here today, Joint Staff Communique No. 2840 added that Iranian Muslim combatants destroyed several Iraqi bunkers and two vehicles in the northwestern fronts, killing and wounding a group of enemy troops.

In Panjwin operational theater Iraqi forces attempted to reinforce their troops but their efforts were foiled when they came under Iranian artillery fire. Engineering movements of the enemy were also halted in Qezel Chay, Sheykh Latif, Bavaneh [name as received] of the northwestern fronts and Bajliya [name as received] and Nahr 'Anbar of the southern fronts.

Iranian combatants demolished four Iraqi individual and group bunkers, as well as several watch posts and a heavy vehicle in the western operational region inficiting some casualties on the Ba'thist troops.

Two Iraqi patrol units attempted to approach Iranian positions in Sumar and Mehran operational regions early Sunday but the timely artillery fire of the Muslim forces forced them to flee from the region.

Iraqi movements in areas overlooking Qasr-e Shirin, Naft Shahr and Mehran were checked by the Muslim forces. Exchange of artillery was more intense in Sharhani, Bajaliya [name as received], Talayeh and Kushk of the southern fronts during which an Iraqi munitions dump, and several bunkers of Iraqi forces were set afire with enemy suffering some casualties.

The communique said that Iranian artillery fire disrupted Iraqi engineering activities east of Basra. Relocation activities of enemy tanks were also checked and brought under fire by Muslim forces.

Iranian anti-aircraft fire also repelled two Iraqi helicopters from 'Eyn Khvosh and Kushk.

At least 15 Iraqi bunkers were destroyed and a group of enemy troops were killed or wounded when their positions in southern and western fronts were subjected to artillery fire of Iranian gendarmerie forces Sunday.

Naval Attack on Platform Cited

LD181916 Tehran IRNA in English 1820 GMT 18 May 87

[Text] Tehran, May 18, IRNA — Scores of Iraqi troops were killed or wounded when naval forces of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) shelled installations of Iraq's al-Umaya [name as received] platform on Monday.

An Iraqi fuel tanker as well as [words indistinct] munitions were damaged in the shelling. The Iraqi vessels were berthed near the Al-Umaya platform.

[words indistinct] exploded as a result of shelling, smoke and flame of which could be seen at a far distance.

IRGC Reports Kurdish Actions in Northern Iraq

LD182135 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 May 87

[Text] The Joint Staff of the three forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps announced that following the bloody uprising of the Muslim people in the north of Iraq clashes still continue in Sayyid Sadiq, Halabjah, and Nahr Diyala. In the course of the uprising of the people in Sayyid Sadiq five members of the Iraqi intelligence and military intelligence were killed, while the commander of one of the Iraqi battalions stationed in that town together along with 300 members of that battalion joined the Muslim revolutionaries and the peshmarga of the Patriotic Union of Iraqi Kurdistan.

According to this report, quoting Ramazan headquarters, the people in (Shanedari) in Iraq, while the members of the clergy were walking in front of the gathering, took part in demonstrations and strikes and joined the revolutionaries. The same report stated that in order to confront the Kurdish revolutionaries the Zionist-Ba'thist Iraqi regime, using helicopters, tried to control the roads leading to towns and districts in the north of Iraq, but so far it has been unsuccessful. While clashing with the people, and while all government departments, the bazaars, and the schools, are closed the regime used bulldozers in an attempt to destroy the Hisar District in Sayyid Sadiq and Kaniaskan District in Halabjah.

In its third dastardly attack on (Havar) District, situated between (Shanjvil) and (Proviteh) in Sulaymaniyah province, which was carried out with one battalion, it was faced with the steadfastness of the Muslim Kurdish peshmerga, and while suffering a large number of dead and wounded it was forced to retreat from the region.

According to another report from Ramazan Headquarters, yesterday the infidel Iraqi regime destroyed the mosques in the town of Halabjah. In the course of this savage crime one of the Friday imams of that town was buried under rubble and achieved the exalted status of martyrdom. Following this anti-Islamic crime the Friday imams and the muezzins of the destroyed mosques joined the Muslim revolutionaries. The Ba'thist enemy made use of the schools of Rawanduz as military bases and put them at the disposal of its mercenary forces.

The same report adds that: the desperate Iraqi regime has lost control of the uprising of the people in the north of Iraq and has imposed an economic blockade on the people of that region, hoping that it can stop the expansion of that movement.

Al-'Alawi Leads Visiting Omani Delegation

Makes Arrival Statement

LD161135 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 May 87

[Text] Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yusuf al-'Alawi 'Abdallah, heading a delegation, arrived in Tehran this morning. He was welcomed by Foreign Minister Velayati.

Mr al-'Alawi, carrying messages from Sultan Qabus for President Khamene'i and Majlis speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani, spoke to our correspondent on his arrival and, having expressed his pleasure over the visit, said: This visit is taking place at the invitation of Mr Velayati. There is no doubt that neighborliness and common interests is what brings our two countries closer together. He viewed as necessary the exchange of diplomatic delegations for exchange of views toward strengthening bilateral ties and expanding cooperation.

Seeks 'Constructive' Relations

LD162014 Tehran IRNA in English 1835 GMT 16 May 87

[Text] Tehran, May 16, IRNA — Visiting Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yusuf al-'Alawi 'Abdallah announced here Saturday that Oman believes Iran shoulders a vital role in the region and that it should play this role.

Speaking in a meeting with Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the Omani minister said his country sought "constructive and positive" relations with Iran.

In response, Velayati said Iran believes that interregional cooperation in safeguarding the security of this strategic area will prevent the destructive interference of the superpowers.

"We have repeatedly declared that we oppose the presence of all foreign powers in the Persian Gulf and Oman Sea," said Velayati adding that the security of the Persian Gulf should be maintained only by regional countries of the Persian Gulf.

Pointing to some regional countries' "unwise" acts, the Iranian minister said the Islamic Republic has always advised them that Iran and these countries should keep mutual relations separate from the tension resulting from the imposed war against Iraq, in order to "eliminate the negative repercussions of aggression from the region," he added.

"Unfortunately," Velayati added, "some regional countries have unwisely invited foreign powers to the region. They are heedless of the fact that these powers are weak", Velayati said, stressing that the "Islamic Republic will powerfully resist foreign powers' interference and influence".

The Omani minister arrived here today at the head of a delegation.

Meets With Musavi

LD171230 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 May 87

[Text] Yusuf al-'Alawi 'Abdallah, Oman's minister of state for foreign affairs, who is heading a delegation to Tehran, met the prime minister, Mir Hoseyn Musavi today. At this meeting, the Omani minister of state for foreign affairs said: The region is so sensitive that any decision made without consultation and guidance from the Islamic Republic of Iran would be incomplete.

Then the prime minister, commenting on regional issues, said: In order to maintain the security in the Persian Gulf, all the superpowers have to do is to stop provoking Saddam and creating tension. There is no reason for the Persian Gulf to be unsafe. They should realize that the Persian Gulf's security is indivisable. The prime minister added: Countries of the region should maintain Persian Gulf security. We have demonstrated that our opposition to any superpower presence in the region is quite serious.

Referring to the Security Council's attempts to pressure Iran, the prime minister stressed: The Security Council has never acted justly and we have proven that political or other pressures do not affect us. Those countries which are trying to impose new decisions on the Security Council should know that the Islamic Republic of Iran will not renege on its announced policies. Any kind of decision against Iran will create a dangerous situation for countries responsible for these provocations. We hope that one day, the Security Council will adopt a realistic approach.

Finally, the prime minister added: Please take our recommendations to members of the Gulf Cooperation Council and tell them that superpowers' flags cannot ensure Persian Gulf security. This security can only be secured by the Persian Gulf countries and by not supporting Saddam.

The Central News Unit reports that Yusuf al-'Alawi 'Abdallah, the Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, also met Mr. Aqazadeh, the oil minister today. At this meeting, views on various regional issues, especially Oman's cooperation with OPEC, and also bilateral technical cooperations were exchanged.

Discusses Oil Cooperation

LD171716 Tehran IRNA in English 1700 GMT 17 May 87

[Text] Tehran, May 17, IRNA — Visiting Omanese Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yusuf al-'Alawi 'Abdallah said here today that nothing can hinder further expansion of Tehran-Muscat cooperation. Such cooperation [words indistinct] constructive results in the oil field, he added.

Al-'Alawi made the remark in a meeting with Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh where he said world oil market should not be glutted by overproduction, because, he added, it would lead to an immediate price fall. "Oman will continue its cooperation with OPEC countries despite the fact that it is not an OPEC member," he said.

Also speaking in the session was Aqazadeh who said that OPEC member states and other regional oil producers are able to overcome most of the problems through unity and solidarity among them. He also noted that oil exploitation especially from the bottom of the sea at current expenditures is like providing consumers with free oil.

Aqazadeh said that reduced value of the dollar in the world markets is among OPEC's problems, which he said directly affects the purchasing power of oil producers. He expressed hope that OPEC countries together with regional producers would find a solution to this issue.

Exploitation of joint Iran-Oman oil resources as well as strategic

situation of the Persian Gulf were also discussed in the meeting. The Omanese minister heading a delegation arrived here Saturday.

Talks With Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD171813 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 May 87

[Text] Yusuf al-'Alawi 'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, who is heading a delegation to our country, met with Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani this afternoon. During the meeting, which was also attended by Minister of Foreign Affairs Velayati, bilateral relations and the situation in the Persian Gulf and the Straits of Hormuz, as well as the expansion of political ties between the Muslim nations of the region were discussed.

The Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, referring to the historical and popular ties between the two sides said: There has been no disagreement between the two countries on bilateral relations. All the issues are within the scope of the friendly and understanding relationship between the two countries. He added: We have informed all those we have met that we will not participate in any matter which may pressure our Iranian brothers. If any solution to the war is to be considered, Iran should be able to forward its point of view. He then expressed the concern of the Persian Gulf countries over the crisis between Iran and Kuwait.

In response, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: In our constitution we have a fundamental Islamic principle concerning our relationship with our neighboring countries. According to this principle we must have good relations with our neighbors, particularly the Muslim neighbors. We have proved this over a period of time, even though we have been subject to incorrect moves by countries such as Kuwait. The childish move recently by Kuwait is very similar to moves made by countries in the past who wished to maintain their subservience by subjecting themselves to the control of the colonialists or by seeking refuge in their embassies. Continuation of such actions will certainly have no benefit for them.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that the Soviets would be able to do as much in the Persian Gulf as they have managed to do in Afghanistan with 100,000 troops and added: We expect Kuwait not to participate in the war. When Iraq is using Kuwaiti air space to attack shipping, we cannot sit idly by and not respond to those who put such facilities at the disposal of Iraq. If the facilities of Kuwait and some other countries of the region not available Iraq would not be able to do such things.

The Majlis speaker, referring to the fact that Iran realizes the improtance of exporting oil for the countries of the Persian Gulf stated: The Islamic Republic is prepared to ignore past animosities and to use its capabilities to the benefit of the countries of the region, providing they do not abuse the patience of the Islamic Republic.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani called the Straits of Hormuz one of the most strategic areas of the world and, referring to the fact that the Islamic Republic of Iran and Oman are situated on opposite sides of the straits, said: No other party should consider itself as justified as we are in maintaining the security of the region. It is Oman and us who are responsible for looking after this passage. He added: The blood of the Muslim people of Lebanon runs through the veins of the people of this region and they are as resistant as the people of Lebanon who are resisting the United States, Israel, and the Phalangists.

Concluding his remarks, Hashemi-Rafsanjani called Kuwait's latest moves in inviting the colonialist powers to the region shameful and expressed hope that the Omani minister has had a successful visit.

Holds Talks With Khamene'i

LD181304 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 May 87

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, President Khamene'i this morning received Yusuf al-'Alawi 'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, who has come to Tehran at the head of a high-ranking delegation to convey a written message from Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id to our country's president.

During the meeting, the Omani minister of state for foreign affairs first presented the written message from Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id, which emphasizes the expansion of mutual relations in line with bilateral interests. He then expressed satisfaction over the talks held with Iranian officials regarding strengthening and expanding relations and mutual trade. He said: Oman believes Iran should have an important and determining role in the region and in the Persian Gulf. Therefore, we are certain that with your excellency's guidance on mutual cooperation and on the political situation in the region, and with Iran's help and support, we will be able to take a more positive stand.

According to this report, then, while expressing his gratitude for the kind and friendly message from the Sultan of Oman, President Khamene'i referred to the sensitive position of Iran and Oman in the Persian Gulf and Strait of Hormuz region. While expressing satisfaction over the expansion of relations and mutual cooperation, especially considering the two countries' similar views on the Islamic world in the region, he said:

Following the victory of the Islamic revolution, our decisive foreign policy called for establishing close ties with neighbors, especially Islamic governments.

Despite the aggression committed by the Iraqi regime against the Islamic Republic of Iran, we have never wanted to change our firm relations with other regional countries, especially Arab countries, because of Iraq. He said: It is a shame for an Islamic country such as Kuwait to adopt the flag of the superpowers. As a Muslim country, we truly feel degraded.

He stressed: The Kuwaiti officials should know that by doing this, they have chosen the worst way to keep their tankers secure, because the presence of big powers anywhere in the world will lead to unrest.

Finally, referring to Iran's policy of goodneighborly relations, the president stressed the importance of expanding mutual ties.

Holds Second Round With Velayati

LD181918 Tehran IRNA in English 1812 GMT 18 May 87

[Text] Tehran, May 18, IRNA — The second round of talks between Iranian Foreign Ministher 'Ali Akbar Velayati and visiting Omani minister of state for foreign affairs Yusuf al-'Alawi 'Abdallah was held here Monday.

The talks were held to evaluate the results of the meetings between Iranian officials and the Omani minister and those of the joint committees.

Velayati said at the meeting that Iran remains as determined as ever to cooperate with its Muslim neighbouring countries. "Today we are witnessing considerable change in relations between the two neighbouring countries of Iran and Oman as a result of the efforts made by the two sides," he stressed.

It is obvious that through joint cooperation, Iran and Oman can create new conditions which are to the benefit of the Persian Gulf region, Velayati noted.

(?The) Omani minister said in response that the Omani delegation feels that its visit has been successful. Al-'Alawi expressed hope that the guidelines proposed during the meetings would influence the two countries' relations and that relations among the regional countries would be brought into a new view.

The Omani minister arrived here Saturday at the head of a delegation.

Deputy Foreign Minister Departs for Japan, PRC

LD181519 Tehran IRNA in English 1445 GMT 18 May 87

[Text] Tehran, May 18, IRNA — Deputy foreign minister for political affairs Hoseyn Shaykh ol-Eslam heading a political delegation left Here Monday for Japan and China to hold talks with these countries' officials.

Shaykh ol-Eslam is carrying Prime Minister Musavi's messages for his Japanese and Chinese counterparts.

VII.	WESTERN EUROPE DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged
VIII.	SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA DAILY REPORT	Renamed; formerly SOUTH ASIA DAILY REPORT; contents include: International Affairs Inter-African Affairs Central Africa Burundi Cameroon Central African Republic Congo Equatorial Guinea Gabon Rwanda Sao Tome & Principe Zaire East Africa Djibouti Ethiopia Kenya Somalia Tanzania Uganda Indian Ocean Comoros Madagascar Mauritius Seychelles Southern Africa Angola Botswana Lesotho Malawi Mozambique Namibia Republic of South Africa Reunion Swaziland Zambia Zimbabwe Western Africa Benin Burkina Faso Cape Verde Islands The Gambia Ghana Guinea Guinea-Bissau Ivory Coast Liberia Mali Niger Nigeria Senegal Sierra Leone Togo

Subscribers who wish to change their subscriptions should notify FBIS or NTIS immediately. A 30-day delay in receipt of the first issue should be expected. Full subscription information is available on the DAILY REPORT back cover.

This is a U.S. Government publication. Its contents in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the U.S. Government.

This publication contains current news and commentary monitored by FBIS from foreign broadcasts, news agency transmissions, newspapers, and periodicals. Items are processed from the first or best available source; it should not be inferred that they have been disseminated only in the medium, in the language, or to the area indicated. Items from foreign-language sources are translated by FBIS. Those from English-language sources are transcribed, with the original phrasing and other characteristics retained.

Headlines, editorial reports, and material enclosed in brackets [ ] are supplied by FBIS. Labels such as [Text] or [Excerpts] in the first line of each item indicate how FBIS processed the information from the original. Names rendered phonetically or in transliteration by FBIS are enclosed in parentheses. Words or names preceded by a question mark and enclosed in parentheses were not clearly heard, received, or published but have been supplied as appropriate to the context. Other unattributed parenthetical notes within the body of an item originate with the source. Times within items are as given by the source.

Users of this publication may cite FBIS provided they do so in a manner clearly identifying it as the secondary source. For example: "FBIS reports that Radio Moscow announced. . ." or "FBIS has monitored a broadcast from Hanoi which says. . . ."

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

The FBIS Daily Report is published Monday through Friday in 8 volumes: I – China, II – Eastern Europe, III – Soviet Union, IV – Asia and Pacific, V – Middle East and Africa, VI – Latin America, VII – Western Europe, and VIII – South Asia.

U.S. Government officials may obtain subscriptions to the Daily Reports at no charge through their sponsoring organizations. DOD consumers are required to submit requests through appropriate command validation channels to DIA, RTS-2C, Washington, D.C. 20301. (Telephone: (202) 373-3771, Autovon: 243-3771.) For additional information or assistance call FBIS, (703) 527-2368, or write P.O. Box 2604, Washington, D.C. 20013.

The public may subscribe to either a hardcover or microfiche version of the Daily Report through the National Technical Information Service (NTIS) of the Department of Commerce (5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, Virginia 22161).

The annual subscription fee for the hardcover version within the United States, Canada, and Mexico is $290 for any one volume, $380 for two volumes, $450 for three, $540 for four, $625 for five, $715 for six, $800 for seven, and $890 for all eight volumes. This includes the occasional supplements to the Daily Report.

In microfiche (prepared weekly) the fee is $125 for any one volume, $155 for two volumes, $185 for three, $230 for four, $285 for five, $340 for six, $395 for seven, and $450 for all eight volumes. Foreign subscriptions outside North America are available from appointed foreign dealers or from NTIS.

Back issues or single copies of the Daily Reports are not available. New subscribers should expect a 30-day delay in receipt of the first issue of the Daily Report. Holders of subscriptions through NTIS should forward all inquiries, remittances, or changes in subscriber information to NTIS at the address listed in paragraph 3 or call: (703) 487-4630.

The publications of the Joint Publications Research Service (JPRS), which are sometimes cited in the Daily Report, may be ordered in single copies or by subscription from NTIS. In ordering, please cite the JPRS title, number, date, and author if applicable.

Both the Daily Report and JPRS publications are on file for public reference at the Library of Congress and at public and university libraries throughout the United States.